

# National Secretary Candidate Statement

Joan A. Muir, Ph.D.



I began my career as a psychologist twenty years ago in the Pediatric Psychiatry Clinic at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, working with parents and youth in the child welfare system. Developing a passion for interventions for the whole family, I joined the research faculty at the Center for Family Studies, University of Miami, dedicated to developing family therapy interventions specific to African American and Latino youth.

For the last decade, I have been director of the Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) Institute at the University Of Miami. In that role, I developed the implementation model to train therapists and develop long term, sustainable BSFT programs at community agencies across 15 states. This ground breaking endeavor has extended my work into New York City, where I received my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at Fordham University and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Columbia University. Today, over 4,000 African American and Latino families in New York City have received the BSFT intervention.

There are many innovative programs and interventions that have been developed specifically for African American youth. I use my expertise with BSFT implementation, to assist emerging models and grass roots initiatives to be manualized, tested and disseminated across the nation. Our community needs and deserves targeted and culturally appropriate interventions.

I have been a proud member of ABPsi since 2000. I served as President of the South Florida chapter and as Student Circle Advisor. The association has added great value to my personal and professional development. I consider the position of secretary to the national board an opportunity to contribute to the smooth execution of the business of the association, growth in its membership, and to support national implementation of its programs and initiatives. At this particularly troubling time in our nation's history, with the heightened racial animus, and the killing of unarmed African American men by the police, I humbly acknowledge that there can be no better time to contribute my time and expertise to serve on the national board of ABPsi, which has been since its inception, a champion of social justice.